



Rock River Coalition Starts Stream Monitoring

By: Jayne Jenks
Land Resources Division

The Rock River Coalition has launched a new Citizen Stream Monitoring program in the Rock River Basin. This includes nearly all the western half of Waukesha County, where the Bark and Oconomowoc Rivers both drain to the Rock River.

With the assistance of Waukesha County, the Rock River Coalition has been signing up volunteers to monitor streams within the Rock River Basin. Volunteers will be sampling their stream sites once a month from May to November. They will be collecting data on temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and benthic

macroinvertebrates (a really fancy term for bugs that live in the water).

The data the volunteers collect will help track the water quality of our streams and rivers. These waterways are being polluted by nonpoint or runoff pollution. Every time it rains or snow melts, water runs off rooftops, driveways, streets and sidewalks and carries a variety of pollutants down the storm drain and into our streams and rivers. These pollutants include gas and oil leaked from our automobiles, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, soil and more.

We all contribute to water pollution. Stream monitoring is one way that some people are helping our waterways. Other simple things we all can do to help include washing the car on the lawn or at a car wash, sweeping grass clippings and fertilizers off pavement and back into the yard, picking up after our pets and disposing of the waste and directing gutter downspouts to the yard not the driveway.

If you would like more information on either stream monitoring or ways to reduce pollution from your home, please call 896-8305. Together, we can have Clean Water One Step at a Time.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM



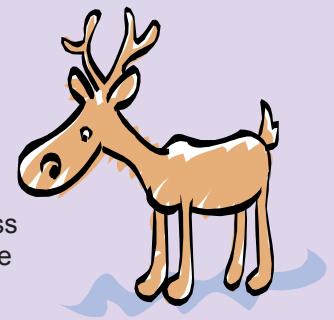
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Again in 2002, Waukesha County will join with other counties around the state who have contracted with the USDA-Wildlife Services to participate in the

Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). This program provides technical assistance and financial compensation for damage to agricultural lands caused by wildlife species such as deer, bear, geese and turkeys. Funding for the program comes from a \$1.00 surcharge on most hunting licenses and the sale of deer bonus tags.

The primary emphasis of the program is wildlife damage abatement. Funds are available to pay up to 75% of the costs for abatement measures such as fencing, repellents, scare devices such as pyrotechnics, propane exploders

and others. In some cases shooting permits are issued subject to local hunting restrictions. Landowners participating in the program must allow public hunting but still retain control over access and the number of hunters on the property at a given time.



The compensation portion of the program will pay up to \$15,000 per claimant after a \$250.00 deductible.

Landowners seeking compensation must follow recommended abatement measures and report the damage to the USDA-Wildlife Services office within 14 days of the first damage.

For additional information on the Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program, please contact the USDA-Wildlife Services office at 1-800-433-0663 or call the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use-Land Resources Division at (262) 896-8300.